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LETTER DATED 30 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the attached statement issued on 30 July 1998 by the joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council in Iraq and the Iraqi Regional Command of the Arab Baath Socialist Party concerning Iraq's compliance with its obligations under section C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), stating that the Council must carry out its responsibilities and adopt a resolution lifting the blockade on Iraq, beginning with the implementation of paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

His Excellency President Saddam Hussein has presided over a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraqi Regional Command of the Arab Baath Socialist Party. The meeting discussed the latest developments in the relationship with the Special Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Security Council in the light of the letter issued by the joint meeting of 1 May 1998, the speech of His Excellency Saddam Hussein on 17 July 1998, and the further meeting held on 21 July 1998 and the statement issued by it. The meeting discussed in particular the deliberations that are currently under way in the Security Council concerning the nuclear file, the arbitrary and aggressive position of the United States of America and the failure of the Security Council to adopt a fair and equitable resolution on this matter. The joint meeting issued the following statement:

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

The manner in which the nuclear file has been dealt with, whereby the United States rejects some of the ideas being discussed at the present time in the Security Council, namely that the Council should, by means of a resolution, move on from the disarmament phase to the monitoring phase, is a blatant example of the arbitrary way in which Iraq's legitimate cause has been handled.

All the IAEA reports, apart from a few details, have shown for years that the Agency's tasks under section C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) have been completed and that, in fact, it only carries out monitoring and verification activities. However, the Security Council, under United States influence, is not willing to adopt a resolution affirming these facts by moving on to the monitoring phase.

Furthermore, the Special Commission has been working on behalf of the United States scheme by deliberately prolonging its assignment and consequently keeping the embargo in place.

The Special Commission is well aware that all the disarmament requirements as contained in section C of resolution 687 (1991) in the three files (missiles, chemical and biological) were fully met several years ago. Weapons, hundreds of factories, pieces of apparatus and equipment which the Special Commission claimed were connected with weapons production have been destroyed. The destruction was carried out in a vindictive manner and even included normal equipment and apparatus at those factories, such as air-conditioners, lighting equipment, furniture and other items which had no connection with weapons or weapons production. Meanwhile, Iraq has been suffering from a comprehensive and unjust embargo and needs every item of its national property.

Since 1994, a comprehensive, rigorous and intrusive monitoring system has been in place, covering hundreds of factories, installations, universities, schools and other sites. Several teams inspect and strictly monitor all these sites on a daily basis. They meddle in all their affairs (such as the budget of the site, the number of its staff, and the number of people holding postgraduate

degrees) and commit other intrusive acts which are, in fact, nothing but intelligence activity, the findings of which go to the intelligence services in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and especially the Zionist entity.

In addition to the heavy losses suffered by Iraq amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars as a result of the destruction of hundreds of factories, pieces of apparatus and items of equipment, which, for the most part, can be used for civilian purposes and which have already been largely converted to civilian operation, the activities of IAEA and the Special Commission have, since 1991, cost Iraq huge sums of money and have necessitated great efforts to which a significant number of high-level officials, hundreds of engineers, technicians, professors, specialists, and hundreds of other people who provide support for the duties of IAEA and the Special Commission, apply themselves and in which they participate to the detriment of their normal tasks and duties. Iraq is required to provide everything needed for the inspections conducted by IAEA and the Special Commission, and for all the daily monitoring operations, and is required to service and refuel the Special Commission's aircraft, to accompany the inspection and monitoring teams and provide protection for them. It is also required to interrupt the activities of all the factories, installations, universities, research centres, and even civilian sites such as infant's milk factories, mills, hospitals, agricultural and veterinary services, food-processing companies and water-purification schemes in order to respond to the demands of IAEA and the Special Commission.

This situation has continued for over seven years. Iraq has agreed to meet all these excessive and burdensome demands for the sake of one key objective, namely the lifting of the unjust embargo.

For seven years the United States, together with the United Kingdom and other followers of the United States, has opposed any step whatsoever to lift or alleviate the embargo.

The legitimate question which must be put to the Security Council and to the international community is: why should Iraq bear all these losses, and all these burdens, and these excessive and burdensome expenses? Why should it submit all its factories, installations, universities, and so forth, to inspection and monitoring, with all the espionage openly carried out by elements of the Special Commission for the benefit of the United States of America, with its aggressive and imperialist designs against Iraq, that that implies? Why should Iraq bear all this while the embargo remains in place, whatever Iraq does to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council?

For seven years, Iraq has been promised by one party or another that its patience, endurance and cooperation with IAEA and the Special Commission will lead to the lifting of the embargo. In order to relieve the sufferings of its people and alleviate their distress, the leadership has tolerated the conduct of the Special Commission, its endless demands and its impudent spying methods.

We had been hoping that the conscience of members of the Security Council would be stirred and that they would consider this situation in an even-handed and impartial manner. However, the years passed and even-handedness and

impartiality were to be found only in a few members of the Security Council whose position did not go beyond complaining about and expressing dissatisfaction with the situation. That did not result in effective action or prompt the Security Council to adopt the resolution, which has been awaited for seven years, to end the embargo on Iraq, initially by implementing paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991) and then by fully and comprehensively rescinding the other prohibitions which have been imposed on Iraq and which are entirely without precedent anywhere in the world.

As a result of the way in which the nuclear file has been dealt with, as we have already mentioned, and of the manoeuvres of the Special Commission in raising marginal issues which do not affect the essential fact that all the major practical requirements of disarmament in accordance with the text and logic of resolution 687 (1991) have been fulfilled, the expectations as to the possible closure of the files before October 1998 and the implementation, at the same time, of paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991) have been dashed. The prospect we are now facing is that the situation will continue, that the embargo will continue for an unknown and unspecified period, and that the Special Commission will continue to destroy and squander the property of the nation and to divert the State from its task of serving the people.

In announcing these facts, we put a strong, stark and severe question to the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the entire international community: why should Iraq continue to tolerate this while the embargo still remains in place and it is not known when it will be lifted?

The experience of the "presidential sites" was a blatant and, for anyone who is capable of being ashamed, a shameful example of this unjust situation. The Special Commission, with the United States behind it, asked to enter the presidential sites, which are the supreme headquarters of the State and have a high status for the people as symbols of sovereignty and dignity, in addition to their significance for the security of the leadership and the State. The Americans, along with the British, have spread fanciful lies about the existence of huge quantities of weapons and equipment at these sites.

Despite the impudence and injustice of this request, which is unprecedented in the dealings of the United Nations with States, we responded to the initiative of the Secretary-General, reached agreement with him and allowed the team which he had established to visit all those sites. The Security Council and the entire world, and especially the Secretary-General of the United Nations, know what happened and how the lies of Washington and London about those sites were exposed.

We dealt with this subject in a judicious and balanced way in order to achieve two main objectives. The first objective was to awaken the conscience of the Security Council and the international community regarding the facts. The second, and equally important objective was that our flexibility should lead to the lifting of the embargo within a short period, as the Secretary-General had promised that he would bring this matter to the attention of the Security Council.

In fact, however, neither this approach nor the situation we have already mentioned led to any perceptible result with respect to the lifting of the unjust embargo which has been imposed on our people and country for eight years now.

In proclaiming these truths to our people, to the Security Council and to the entire world, we shall call for a comprehensive national debate on this situation in the near future and on the position that should be adopted and the steps that should be taken to protect the supreme interests of the people and the security and sovereignty of the nation.

The forthcoming meeting between the representatives of Iraq and of the Special Commission will be an essential indication as to the outcome of the situation. Will the Special Commission recognize that the requirements of section C of resolution 687 (1991) have been met and will it submit its report requesting the Security Council to play its part and implement paragraph 22 in the near future? Or will it continue its well-known methods of manoeuvring, misleading people, raising marginal issues and dragging out its work interminably in the service of the criminal scheme of the United States the objective of which is the destruction of Iraq and its people?

We appeal to our great people to fulfil the role of which we know it to be capable and to stand behind its leaders in defending the position that will arise from the impending circumstances and discussions. We also call upon our noble Arab nation to take a responsible stand with respect to the tricks of the tricksters, the intransigence of the intransigent and the aggressiveness of the aggressors. The unjust will know what their fate will be. God is great. Let the despicable be spurned.